

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791

**Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects Program**

Dear Mr./Ms.:

Introduction

The Delta Levee Special Flood Control Projects Program (Program) was established in 1988 by Senate Bill 34, and continues to operate under subsequent legislation that extended and provided funding for the Program. Originally, the Program was authorized to address flooding on the Eight Western Islands, Thornton, New Hope, and Walnut Grove. In 1996, the Program was expanded to the entire Delta and to portions of Suisun Marsh (approximately 12 miles of levees on islands bordering the Northern Suisun Bay from Van Sickle Island westerly to Montezuma Slough).

The passage of Proposition 1E and Proposition 84 in November 2006 significantly increased the amount of money available for levee projects in the Delta. This increase in funding required a corresponding increase in the responsibility to be more transparent about how Special Projects in the Delta are funded. To fulfill this responsibility, the Department of Water Resources (Department) developed the Interim Guidelines in 2008 and the Near-Term Guidelines in 2010, with subsequent Projects Solicitation Packages being released in 2008, 2010, and 2012. To date, the Department, through the Program, has invested over \$350 million dollars in flood control and habitat projects carried out by local levee maintaining agencies in the Delta.

“2014 Guidelines for Providing Funding to Local Public Agencies”

The Department has developed the “Draft 2014 Guidelines for Providing Funding to Local Public Agencies” (Guidelines). The Guidelines provide an update to the Near-Term Guidelines, and outline the Department’s intent to proceed with projects that are consistent with the “Framework for State Investment in Integrated Flood Management in the Delta and Suisun Marsh” (Framework). The updated Guidelines will allow the Department to tailor future Projects Solicitation Packages to address the most pressing levee system integrity and environmental enhancement needs in the Delta, with an emphasis on multi-benefit projects.

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Projects Solicitation Package for Multi-Benefit Projects

The Department has also developed the “Draft Projects Solicitation Package for Multi-Benefit Projects” (PSP). The PSP will solicit eligible projects that provide an increase in export water supply reliability from the Delta for the State and federal water projects, provide long term ecosystem enhancements, and provide improvements to levee system integrity. A total of \$75,000,000 will be available under the PSP.

Public Review and Comments

The Guidelines and PSP are now being released for public review and comment. This letter initiates a 15-day public review process of the Guidelines and PSP. I would appreciate receiving your comments to the Department no later than Thursday March 13, 2014.

The draft Guidelines are available on the Department’s website at:

http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/docs/special_guidelines2014.pdf

The draft PSP is available at:

http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/docs/special_PSP2014.pdf

The draft Framework is available at:

http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/docs/announce_framework.pdf

Please send your comments to: DeltaLeveesProgram@water.ca.gov.

You may also submit comments to:

**Andrea L. Lobato, P.E., Manager
Delta Levees Program
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1641-2
Sacramento, California 95814**

The Department is planning to hold a public workshop to solicit public comments on March 7, 2014, in conjunction with the Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr./Ms.

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If you have any questions please call me at (916) 651-9295. You may also call Jon Wright at (916) 651-7010 or Mark Bradley at (916) 651-7003.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Lobato, P.E., Manager
Delta Levees Program